IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 15, as follows:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended Twice)   A universal auction system having a programmable auction server, the programmable auction server comprising:

a plurality of auction modules wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier, an information manager, a clearer, a registration manager, a bid transformer, and a proxy bidder, the bid transformer to implement at least one of a predetermined set of discriminating allocation market protocols.

Please amend Claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) The universal auction system as in claim 22, wherein the market specification console is coupled to a programmable auction server wherein said programmable auction server is adapted to receive market protocols from said market specification console, the market specification console having a graphic user interface (GUI).

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Amended Twice)   A method of designing a universal auction system comprising:

generating a plurality of auction modules in a programmable auction server, wherein at least one auction modules corresponds to at least one

function of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier, an information manager, a clearer, and a registration manager; and

implementing at least one transaction selected from the group consisting of a bid verification, and a bid transformation, wherein the bid transformation is based upon one of a predetermined set of discriminating allocation market protocols.